

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 108252

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN, BBAK, ELAB, PINT, NI

SUBJECT: CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM AND NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER
OF LABOR

REF: LAGOS 4601

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. MERLIN TAYLOR (ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTSMEN, AFL/CIO, AND TRAINING MANAGER, CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM), HOWARD MAXFIELD (PRESIDENT, MAXFIELD, EDWARDS, BACKER AND ASSOCIATES, COVINGTON, KY., AND DIRECTOR/TREASURER CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM), DAVE PRESSLER (PRESIDENT, F. W. PRESSLER AND ASSOCIATES, CINCINNATI, OHIO, AND SECRETARY, CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM), AND ROBERT BEEGHLY (PARTNER, WINKLER, RANCK, CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEGHLY AND MAXFIELD, HAMILTON, OHIO, AND DIRECTOR, CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM), CALLED ON DEPARTMENT MAY 5 TO DISCUSS THE CONSORTIUM'S INTEREST IN NIGERIA.

2. MAXFIELD APOLOGIZED FOR ATTEMPTING ENLIST EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENT WITH MAJOR GENERAL H.E.O ADEFOPE, COMMISSIONER FOR LABOR, BEFORE CINCINNATI

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS IDENTIFIED. HE BELIEVES CONSORTIUM MEMBERS HAVE SPOKEN TO E/C COUNSELOR CAHILL BY TELEPHONE BUT MAY HAVE USED NAMES OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL FIRMS AND DID NOT IDENTIFY CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM. HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES AGREED THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVE (MASSACHUSETTS-BASED TIMOTHY HOOPER) HAS APPARENTLY FAILED TO CALL ON EMBASSY DURING HIS VISITS TO NIGERIA. THEY GREATLY APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST (REFTEL).

3. WHEN APPOINTMENT WITH ADEFOPE DID NOT WORK OUT, MAXFIELD RETURNED TO US. HE IS NOT PLANNING VISIT NIGERIA IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. RATHER, THE CONSORTIUM UNDERSTANDS THAT ADEFOPE MAY VISIT US ABOUT END OF MAY TO ATTEND HIS SON'S GRADUATION FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. THEY WOULD PREFER TO SEE ADEFOPE IN US IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE CAPABILITIES THEIR FIRMS. (DEPARTMENT RECALLS THAT AT TIME OF ADEFOPE'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO US IN NOVEMBER 1975 WITH BRIGADIER BISALLA, HE HAD DAUGHTER AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

4. THE CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM REPS SAID THEY NOT EXACTLY CERTAIN WHY OR HOW THEIR INITIAL PROPOSAL IN NIGERIA (TO BUILD HOSPITAL IN KADUNA) HAD BEEN REFERRED BY MINISTRY PUBLIC WORKS TO MINISTRY OF LABOR. IN ANY EVENT, QUESTION OF AFL/CIO INVOLVEMENT IN CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM HAS BEEN RAISED (SEE STATE 089214) WHICH THEY NEED TO CLEAR UP. ADEFOPE HAS REQUESTED LETTER FROM US GOVERNMENT SAYING THAT AFL/CIO AFFILIATE WORKING IN NIGERIA AS PART OF CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM WOULD NOT ATTEMPT ORGANIZE NIGERIAN LABOR. CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPOFFS AND CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM REPS AGREED THAT USG COULD NOT MAKE SUCH COMMITMENT. ON OTHER HAND, DEPOFFS SAID THEY SAW NO REASON WHY USG OFFICIAL COULD NOT WRITE LETTER DESCRIBING HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE AFL/CIO AFFILIATE'S GENERAL ROLE IN CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM WHICH MIGHT SATISFY THE FMG. DEPARTMENT COULD SEND SUCH A LETTER, BUT IN INTEREST OF SAVING TIME AND BECAUSE EMBASSY IS BETTER CHANNEL FOR COMMUNICATION WITH AN AGENCY OF FMG, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED PREPARE SUCH A LETTER AND DELIVER IT ASAP TO MINISTRY OF LABOR.

5. EMBASSY LETTER COULD BE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: QUOTE EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT ELEVEN US ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING, AND CONSTRUCTION DESIGN FIRMS OPERATING UNDER THE NAME OF THE CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM ARE ATTEMPTING TO UNDERTAKE CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN NIGERIA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ANY FORMAL TRAINING UNDERTAKEN BY THE CONSORITUM WOULD BE CONDUCTED BY ITS TRAINING ARM, THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTSMEN, THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL

MASONRY APPRENTICESHIP TRUST (IMAT). CRAFT TRAINING BY LABOR UNIONS IS COMMONPLACE IN THE US, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. IMAT HAS CONDUCTED TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR MANY DIFFERENT AGENCIES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THIRTEEN JOB CORPS CENTERS CURRENTLY BEING OPERATED FOR THE US DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR AND THE INTERIOR. UNQUOTE.

6. SINCE DRAFTING THE FOREGOING, CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM PHONED THE DEPARTMENT TO REPORT THAT REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER HAS OBTAINED AGREEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ADEFOPE TO VISIT US MAY 28 TO JUNE 6. COMMISSIONER HAS ALSO REAFFIRMED HIS DESIRE TO RECEIVE LETTER SOONEST FROM US GOVERNMENT ABOUT LABOR UNION ROLE IN CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM. END UNCLASSIFIED.

7. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

FYI, DAVID WOOD (TIME MAGAZINE BUREAU CHIEF IN BOSTON, CONFIDENTIAL

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MASS.) PHONED THE DEPARTMENT MAY 10 TO CHECK OUT A STORY TOLD TO HIM BY A PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE IN BOSTON WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY PROVED TO BE A RELIABLE SOURCE. WOOD IDENTIFIED THE SOURCE AS A BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS WORKED UNDER CONTRACT TO THE FMG TO INVESTIGATE US COMPANIES BELIEVED TO BE FRAUDULENT AND WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN ASSISTING AN AFL/CIO AFFILIATE TO OBTAIN A TRAINING CONTRACT IN NIGERIA. SOURCE TOLD WOOD THAT HIS WORK FOR THE AFL/CIO AFFILIATE HAD BROUGHT HIM INTO CONTACT WITH COMMISSIONER ADEFOPE DURING HIS LAST TRIP TO NIGERIA. HE LEARNED THAT ADEFOPE CONSPIRING TO OVERTHROW PRESENT GOVERNMENT BECAUSE IT UNWILLING DEMAND FULL OPEC PRICE FOR NIGERIAN CRUDE OIL EXPORTS. BECAUSE OF THE PLOT, SOURCE SAID HE WAS DELIBERATELY SLOWING DOWN HIS ASSISTANCE ON BEHALF OF HIS AFL/CIO CLIENT.

8. WOOD WILL BECOME TIME MAGAZINE BUREAU CHIEF IN NAIROBI NEXT JULY AND WILL THEREAFTER BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COVERING NIGERIA AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE SAID HE THEREFORE TRYING TO LEARN ALL HE CAN ABOUT NIGERIA BUT HIS KNOWLEDGE STILL ONLY RUDIMENTARY. DEPOFF EXPLAINED APPARENT FALLACY IN THE OIL PRICE MOTIVE FOR THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY AND COMMENTED THAT COUP RUMORS ARE COMMON. DEPOFF DID NOT RPT NOT REVEAL WHAT HE KNEW ABOUT THE CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM, ITS AFL/CIO CONNECTION, AND THE MASSACHUSETTS-BASED REPRESENTATIVE, NOR HAS HE TOLD TAYLOR, MAXFIELD, ET AL ABOUT WOOD'S REPORT. END FYI.

9. EMBASSY SHOULD OF COURSE REPORT ANY INFORMATION BEARING ON FOREGOING. IS TIMOTHY HOOPER KNOWN TO YOU IN ANY WAY? IN ABSENCE REASON TO CONTRARY, EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE

TO ASSIST CINCINNATI CONSORTIUM LIKE ANY OTHER LEGITIMATE
US BUSINESS ORGANIZATION. DEPARTMENT DISCERNS NO REASON
WHY WOOD'S INFORMATION SHOULD INTERFERE WITH WRITING A
LETTER TO MINISTRY OF LABOR AS REQUESTED BY THE CONSORTIUM.
END CONFIDENTIAL. CHRISTOPHER
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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